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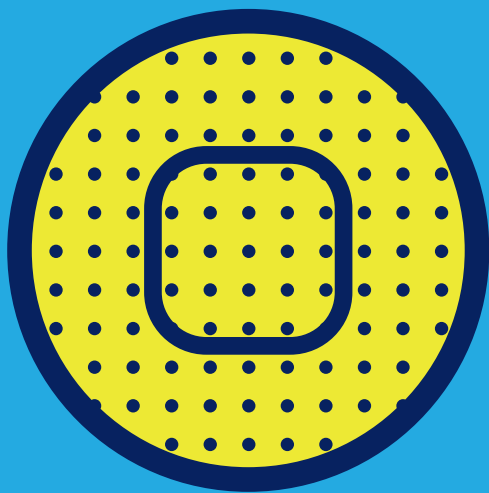
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# Mayor pledges assistance to Bel-Habitat Homes bankruptcy victims

*'This is a drama without precedent,' Demers said during the July 6 city council*



**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News  
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Speaking during the July 6 Laval city council meeting, Mayor Marc Demers pledged on behalf of the city to provide assistance to the dozens of families and individuals who entrusted large sums of money to Bel-Habitat Homes, a company whose owner has declared bankruptcy while vanishing with an estimated \$17 million in deposits.

## 'Unprecedented,' said Demers

"This is a drama without precedent," said Demers, after listening to questions and comments sent in by e-mail by an extensive list of families and individuals from Laval who have been directly impacted by the unfolding financial scandal.

"I am speaking on behalf of all the members of city council to say that we are moved by these events. Yes, we will be taking action to come to the assistance of the people caught up in this

litigious issue, this scam, if I may allow myself to use that word."

## LPD is investigating

According to Demers, the Laval Police Department has opened a file and is currently investigating allegations that the law was broken and charges may be pending.

"I can promise you that no effort will be spared in this dossier and we will be asking the police to show diligence. I have already asked them to regularly furnish follow-up reports on the progress of the investigation, up to what is allowed in terms of information they can release."

## Get in touch with GCR

In addition, Demers said the Laval Police have entered into an agreement with Garantie de construction résidentielle (GCR), a non-profit organization whose stated mission is to protect the interests of buyers or beneficiaries of guarantee plans for new residential buildings.

The mayor said all individuals and families

impacted by the bankruptcy of Bel-Habitat should get in touch with GCR in order to open a file, as well as to facilitate the investigation being conducted by the Laval Police. "GCR also offers psychological help, for people who might need it, on their site," added Demers.

## City exploring other means

Given the magnitude and extraordinary circumstances of the situation, Demers said he had asked administration officials at city hall to look into what resources are available and within the means of municipalities in order to provide assistance to those impacted by the Bel-Habitat bankruptcy.

"And we would also like to receive clarification from our legal team," he continued. "They are lawyers who have a specialty in legal law, who may be able to help and provide some useful information."

He said he felt certain that city council is unanimous in the view that the city should be involved to provide the Bel-Habitat victims with help.



**Mayor Marc Demers gave his assurances during the July 6 city council meeting that the City of Laval will be actively involved in assisting the victims of the recent Bel-Habitat Homes bankruptcy, in which \$17 million in deposits have gone missing.**

# Opposition parties unanimously denounce city workers' salary increases

*Deputy Mayor Boyer defends 1.2 per cent hike as necessary to retain employees*



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Laval city council's opposition members, who are often divided along party lines, were unanimous during last week's July city council meeting in condemning the Mouvement lavallois administration for a measure that will raise city employees' salaries by 1.2 per cent, so they won't be tempted away by the prospect of better-paying jobs.

## 'Unacceptable,' said Revelakis

Leading off the criticism was Action Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis. "I believe it is important that the employees of the City of Laval get paid equitably," she said, while noting though that she didn't understand why the proposed salary increase is higher than the indexed inflation rate.

As well, she wondered why the salaries are being raised only a few months before voters in Laval go to the polls for city-wide elections, and why the increase is being made retroactive to 2019.

While pointing out that many Laval residents have lost their jobs since the beginning of the pandemic early last year, that businesses have closed and employers are finding it difficult to find workers, she said, "Yet in Laval we are raising raising salaries, which is unacceptable."

## 'Lacking respect,' says De Cotis

Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis said he fully agreed with Revelakis as well as AL councillors Paolo Galati and Isabella Tassoni. "I have nothing against the employees of the City of Laval who are doing excellent work," he said. "It's a question of principle and respect towards the citizens of Laval."

"The last two years have been difficult for our citizens," he noted. "Granting salary increases that are retroactive, without a strong mandate

to do it, shows a flagrant lack of respect for the electoral process that is almost upon us.

"My colleagues Mrs. Revelakis, Mr. Galati, Mrs. Tassoni, Mr. Poissant and Mr. Trottier are all correct: We should let the people decide," said De Cotis. "In any case, madam president, the increases are retroactive. So, we should let a new administration decide how to deal with these increases."

## 'Perks' concern Trottier

Parti Laval city councillor for Fabreville Claude Larochelle said he and party leader Michel Trottier had no problem with a mandated salary adjustment, but were more concerned with perks also included in the deal. These included five additional vacation days, and the reduction (from eight years to one year) in the amount of time an employee must be on staff to be eligible for five weeks vacation annually.

"After such a challenging year for society as a whole, this is a little indecent," Larochelle said, while maintaining that according to recent ranking of municipalities across Quebec, the City of Laval was already in second place for the scale of salaries paid overall to its work force.

## A need to retain workers

Mouvement lavallois city councillor for Sainte-Dorothée Ray Khalil, who is responsible for public works dossiers on the executive-committee, justified the proposed perks and salary increases on the basis that the city needs to take the means to hold onto good employees.

"The experience in all public administrations and companies is that you have to offer benefits in order to attract workers," he said. "While, yes, there are some people who've recently been through difficulties, in certain sectors the difficulty has not been finding a job, but rather to not lose employees. And often within our own operations, that is the problem we are facing and the problem for which we must take action."

Deputy Mayor Stéphane Boyer denied the

administration was moving forward with the salary increases for electoral reasons, insisting instead that they were showing courage and transparency. "I think that what we are doing today is in complete transparency," he said.


## Boyer justifies increase

"We have adopted new collective agreements for the whole of our work force, as well as for our managers and other senior directors. They have working conditions and they have a right to see that we revise them. They haven't been


revised in a while and we are bringing them up to date."

According to Boyer, prior to 2014 the average City of Laval employee salary increase was 3.1 per cent. The latest hike, he added, amounts to 1.2 per cent. As well, he maintained that a HEC Montréal study ranked the cities of Terrebonne, Montreal, Gatineau, Québec, Blainville and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu as having senior managers who earn higher salaries than those paid by the City of Laval.

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Finding a new path forward driven by Indigenous people

### *The graves of residential school children symbolize the abject failure of decades of government policy*

The discovery of the locations where hundreds of children were buried around abandoned residential school grounds has touched the country in ways that perhaps even the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission did not. People are responding to this revelation with sustained emotion and genuine anger. But this anger must for once be translated into action.

Put aside the fact that the broad contours of students' death at residential schools were already widely known. The country's reaction to the first major revelations of the deaths of students in the state's care (revelations from decades ago at this point) was muted compared to the current response to radar-identified graves.

For many years, extensive Indigenous testimony and writing have described the deaths of children at residential schools. First Nations, Inuit and Métis people have spoken publicly about these tragedies thousands of times, and they have for decades overshadowed life in Indigenous communities. The scale of the current revelations and the heartbreak of thinking about young children, away from family and community, dying alone in institutions characterized by a lack of essential humanity, again highlights this shared intergenerational trauma.

While political parties at various levels may differ in their specific approaches, it seems that there is a shared sense of horror and disgust about the children's deaths. Unfortunately, as more remains will be found – Indigenous testimony and other evidence are clear on this vital point – public reaction will likely decline in intensity as people become numb to these horrors.

Government policy, far from being the solution to the issues facing Indigenous peoples, has been one of the primary sources of the problem, alongside ages-old patterns of racial discrimination and state-supported assimilation. The many faces of federal paternalism have brought and continue to bring great pain and suffering to First Nations, Métis and Inuit across the country.

Canada must first recognize Indigenous autonomy, self-government, and sovereignty over their lands and affairs – a move that the United States led on in the 19th century. The Indian Act, reserves and all the other vestiges of 19th- and 20th-century colonization must be replaced, under terms and conditions determined primarily by Indigenous peoples. To replace these colonial structures is a tremendous legal and political task. To accomplish this effort will take time, and will require the federal government to provide funding, civil service support, the initial scoping, and then simply to get out of the way, as was done when setting up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Facilitating a dramatic change in how Canada manages its relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples must be undergirded by an overhaul of how these communities are funded. At present, the funding due to Indigenous peoples arising from their unique place in Canadian history, and their constitutional, legal and treaty rights, is caught up in a bureaucratic web. In this web, far too much funding is determined by a system in which Ottawa makes priorities for communities, and communities with few personnel resources navigate a myriad of applications and program requirements simply trying to get the support they need.

This system needs to be completely altered. Funding should instead go directly to Indigenous governments, either at a large scale (like Nunavut, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, or the James Bay Cree), more localized groups (like the Prince Albert Tribal Council or the Treaty 8 First Nations), or specific nations or communities (like the Carcross-Tagish First Nation or the Membertou First Nation). These communities are well equipped to manage their own priorities, and Indigenous peoples are fully capable of holding their own governments to account.

Once again, the task is not a simple one, as the challenges facing Indigenous communities vary dramatically. Ottawa needs to none-

theless expand the co-production of policy at all levels, establish clear avenues for ensuring shared financial priority setting, and establish better funding equivalencies between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Funding allocation needs to shift away from program spending, which ebbs and flows from government to government, and move toward long-term block funding that is reliable, predictable, and fungible. There can be no autonomy for these Nations without autonomous financial decision-making, and thus these moves need to be a key part of the process.

Moreover, Indigenous communities should be empowered to engage (or not engage) in the natural resource economy. They must be able to access the types of own-source revenue that non-Indigenous people take for granted, just as they should be able to exercise the right to protect their own environments as they see fit, free of interference. And, Ottawa must ensure that communities have clear access to the full range of financial tools and services that others in Canada already do, including access to capital.

Ultimately, Ottawa must step back – way back – permitting the re-empowerment of Indigenous peoples and ensuring the systematic and rapid dismantling of state-driven control over Indigenous lives. This theme can carry to all elements of policy-making, whether that be education, resource development, health care, housing, and more. Negotiate modern self-governance agreements in good faith, then get out of the way.

This process, while not obvious or easy, could start simply. The leaders of the national political parties could, for once, put aside partisan politics and agree on an all-party approach to creating a new foundation for Indigenous governance and administration in Canada, advised by a large and representative group of Indigenous leaders and thinkers.

Though hard, this work is well within the capacity of the Indigenous leaders and peoples. After all, Indigenous peoples are responsible for some of the most imaginative and creative political systems in the country: the Atlantic Policy Congress, Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, the Six Nations, tribal councils on the prairies, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Nisga'a Lisims government, the traditional structure of the Teslin First Nation, and dozens of other impressive and culturally informed innovations. Indigenous thinkers and leaders have devoted years to imagining a new political future.

If this process succeeds, what would it look like? To start, Indigenous peoples would have a clearer and more direct say over the decisions that are made which impact them. Their governments would be better equipped to advocate for their interests in negotiations with Canadian governments, the private sector, and other organizations. The management of historic wrongs and the process of meaningful reconciliation would be more deftly accomplished if communities are more fully able to engage in this process free of the yolk of Ottawa.

We see this to some extent in other countries. For instance, the Maori people in New Zealand have received major settlements, have begun having their language and culture restored in education, and more. While imperfect and though there is a long road ahead, this is all part of that quest for greater autonomy.

In short: greater self-governance would put Indigenous communities in a position to better determine and protect their own needs and destinies.

It is impossible not to be profoundly moved by the realization that hundreds of children died in the care of the state while at residential schools in this country.

If these graves symbolize anything, it is the abject failure of decades of government policy. Find a new path forward driven by Indigenous people. Do it now. Instead of letting the memories of what happened to those Indigenous children haunt the country for years to come, let the discovery of the hundreds of bodies be the launching point.

Ken S. Coates



# Sonia Baudelot unsure whether she'll run for mayor under her own banner

## Says she split from Action Laval after a merger with her party broke down



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While insisting that she is still surrounded by volunteers and candidates after leaving Action Laval, former AL mayoralty hopeful Sonia Baudelot told the Laval News earlier this week that she hasn't made up her mind yet whether she'll be running for mayor under the banner of her own party.

### The underlying cause

Baudelot, who had been tagged by Action Laval last November to run as their mayoral candidate, issued a statement last week questioning the veracity of the Laval city council opposition party's assertion that she had dropped out after citing a lack of available time because of family obligations.

Baudelot, who has also been a candidate in Laval for the federal Conservatives and who ran her own Avenir Laval municipal party in the 2017 election, suggested instead that a failure to achieve harmony between her faction and long-standing members of Action Laval was the underlying cause.

### Unsure whether running

"I don't know if I'm running again – I really don't know," Baudelot said last Monday in a phone interview with TLN. "The decision is not taken at a hundred percent," she said. "I have doors that are open with people and I've been talking with people. But I just don't know what I'm going to do."

Although Baudelot has so far not succeeded in winning an elected office, there is good reason to consider her politically "bankable." In the 2017 election, when she ran for mayor, she

managed to garner 17,155 votes for 15.6 per cent support overall.

### A respectable following

In addition, over the years she has managed to develop a respectable network of backroom support from well-established Laval-area politicians such as Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette, who endorsed Baudelot publicly during one of her past campaigns.

Baudelot said this week that she sensed the volunteers she brought to Action Laval were losing their spirit as they moved more closely into the ranks of Action Laval.

She claimed to have brought at least 40 volunteers to Action Laval, and "they all left with me, candidates have left." Baudelot didn't specify exactly how many candidates she took away, but said that she had contributed as many candidates to Action Laval as had the party.

### How to run a campaign

In a separate interview, Action Laval president Archie Cifelli insisted the reason why Baudelot and the party parted ways was because of a fundamental disagreement over how an election campaign should be run.

"The only way to win a municipal election is to be on the ground, talking to people and going door-to-door," he said, while claiming that Baudelot considered that to be old-fashioned and that modern electioneering should rely much more on the use of social media to stir up support and get the word around.

Told of Cifelli's reaction, Baudelot took exception to his remarks. "Politics in 2021 is a team effort," she said. "It's teams that work together. Not two sides apart. When I joined, it was a fusion of two parties basically: my team and theirs. That's what it was supposed to be. But it wasn't that."



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# Laval Citizens mayoral hopeful Michel Poissant promises a nature trail if elected

*Eight-kilometre pathway would travel through several of Laval's wetlands* (Photos: Martin c. Barry-Newsfirst)



Laval Citizens leader and mayoral candidate Michel Poissant is seen here with a map of the route the proposed nature trail would take.



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Despite a current lack of support from the city for his project, Laval Citizens leader and mayoralty candidate Michel Poissant is pledging to build an eight-kilometre nature trail through some key wetlands in Laval if he becomes mayor in the November municipal elections.

Poissant, the city councillor for Laval's Vimont district, made the announcement last week during a press conference held outside the Quintessence high-rise condo building complex on St-Elzéar Blvd. on the northern edge of Chomedey.

## An electoral priority

A large group of residents came out to express support with placards calling on the city to protect Laval's wetlands from development. The proposed trail was mapped out and designed by Georges Pelletier.

The condo buildings on St-Elzéar are located next to a wetland. Poissant is pledging to make the nature trail – to be known as the Parc linéaire Ruisseau Papineau-Lavoie et rue des Charmes – a priority should he be elected on Nov. 7.

## 'Citizen project,' says Poissant

While addressing the crowd, Poissant maintained that the trail should be relatively easy to complete since the land it would travel across is owned largely by Hydro-Québec and the City of Laval. "It's a project that is very interesting

from the standpoints of being economical and citizen-driven," he said.

"Thanks to the creativity and perseverance of a resident of the area, Mr. Georges Pelletier, we are pleased to present one of the many projects of our program, namely an eight-kilometre nature trail that will be carried out during our first term," he added.

## Bike and walking path

"The vast majority of the land used is already owned by the city and/or Hydro-Québec and therefore acquisition costs will be minimal. As soon as we take office, we will begin negotiations."

For the areas under power lines where there is more space, Poissant said they will develop a path for pedestrians and cyclists. "We can then move or rearrange certain bike paths nearby," he continued. "This trail will be the biggest in Laval and can be compared to those of several cities of the north shore."

## Making Laval greener

He noted that the route of the proposed path would contribute to the Laval region's growing green heritage. "The pandemic made us realize the importance of having access to nature as a prized resource," he said.

While explaining the route of the path, Georges Pelletier acknowledged that there could be some obstacles to overcome. He said there are some private tracts of land where it would have to pass across. In all, the path would cover 90 hectares of land. He said they would try to buy the private tracts, while paying as little as possible.



Placard-holding Quintessence complex residents expressed their support for the nature trail project.



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# Student, Vanessa Catena from Laval among those awarded Rogers Scholarships



**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
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## In spite of the pandemic

Although it was the second year in a row that traditional rites of passage for graduating students were muted by the COVID-19 pandemic, for 26 deserving students for Quebec who received the Ted Rogers Scholarships the virtual celebration on June 23 was a moment to recognize their achievements and look forward to what the future holds next.

This year Vanessa Catena from Laval, was awarded the Ted Rogers Scholarships offering \$2,500 renewable scholarships for up to four years or \$10,000 to recognize young leaders nominated by 18 community partnership organizations.

## Student/volunteer



Vanessa (photo above) is entering her first year at Bishop's University in Lennoxville this fall and hopes to work in marketing after her studies. In the meantime, she volunteers with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and is hoping in the future to offer her marketing experience to help the organization continue its mission.

In her video interview with posted online by Rogers, Vanessa Catena talk about some of her hopes and aspirations, while also speculating on what she wants to accomplish later in her life.

## A decade from now

Where does Vanessa see herself in ten years? "I realize that where I see myself has a lot to do with what my values and passions are," she said. "I see myself working in the consumer goods industry in the marketing world. This upcoming school year I will be majoring in marketing at Bishop's University. It is something that I am really interested in as it is going to allow me to utilize my creative side."

## From all over Quebec

The Rogers Scholarships 2021 recipients represent more than 12 municipalities across Quebec including Laval, Rosemère, Brossard, Côte Saint-Luc, Gatineau, Longueuil, Montréal, Pierrefonds, Québec, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, St-Colomban and Terrebonne.

According to Rogers, reports show that youth from low-income households, equity-seeking groups or remote communities are less likely to pursue post-secondary studies due to

barriers like affordability. They say that Rogers Scholarships help reduce those barriers, offering \$2,500 renewable scholarships for up to four years or \$10,000 to recognize young leaders nominated by 18 community partnership organizations.

## A diverse generation

Rogers says that nearly three-quarters of recipients nationally self-identify as members of equity-seeking groups including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ2S+, and young women. "These scholars reflect a

vibrant and diverse generation which will propel Canada forward with ideas and innovation and power our growth and economy," the company says in a statement.

Since launching Ted Rogers Scholarships in 2017, Rogers says it has invested more than \$406,000 to support over 250 Quebec youths attending post-secondary studies, with the program now celebrating its first cohort of university and college graduates.

## Encouraging potential

"We are proud to support the next generation

of Quebec leaders and changemakers by giving them well-deserved encouragement to achieve their highest potential," said Edith Cloutier, president for the Quebec Region of Rogers Communications.

"Our youth have shown incredible resilience this past year and it is inspiring to know that Canada will move forward and grow with young leaders who have a vision for community, inclusivity and diversity," added Paul Davidson, president of Universities Canada which provided support.

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- **Zucchini** (Jaune / Vert)
- **Nectarines**
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## Laval police investigate after two men shot at supper lounge

Laval Police officers were waiting earlier this week to meet two young men who were shot during the night last weekend in a Chomedey neighbourhood resto-bar, but who failed to report it.

The two, both in their 20s, checked into hospitals in Laval and Montreal for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Police had responded around 1:20 a.m. after reports of gunshots fired at the Aztec Supper Lounge on Curé-Labelle Blvd.

"When they arrived on the scene, no victims

were located by the police," said LPD spokesperson Stephanie Beshara. "However, we were informed a little later that two victims were taken to two different hospitals for gunshot wounds."

One of the two young men was released from the hospital and both will eventually be interviewed by investigators.

"It is certain that when the situation allows it, when they are able to talk to us, the investigators will go to meet them," added Beshara. "Now it remains to be seen if they want to cooperate with the police or not."

## LPD seeks two suspects in aborted home invasion

The Laval Police are looking for two suspects nearly a month after a home invasion that took place in Laval's Sainte-Dorothée neighbourhood. The incident happened around 9 pm on June 18 on des Géraniums Ave.

According to the police report, a resident at that address told the suspects that a closed-circuit camera was built into the doorbell of her home, which apparently caused them to flee.

The LPD says one of the suspects was a woman of apparent South American origin, around 25 years old, who spoke Spanish. She was wearing a camouflage-pattern hoodie with an Adidas logo

on it, and the inscription HU Hiking written on the back, as well as grey slacks, black shoes and she had a black bag.

The other suspect was man of apparent South American origin, around 20 years old. He also was wearing a black hoodie with white writing in front, black slacks, black shoes and a black cap with a logo.

Anyone with information on the pair is asked to contact the Laval Police Department's confidential Info-Line at 450 662-INFO (4636), or call 911. The file number is LVL 210622-042.

## Four-year-old dies after falling unconscious from heart issue

The Laval Police have confirmed the death of a four-year-old boy who was found unresponsive inside a residence Saturday night in Laval's Pont-Viau district.

A 911 call, received at 6:40 p.m., led emergency services to Bazin Ave. where a young boy was reported to be unconscious. The child was in cardiorespiratory arrest when police arrived.

"Our officers began CPR (resuscitation) and paramedics took over," said Beshara. "He was taken to a hospital where unfortunately he was pronounced dead."

Several hours later, few details were available on what happened inside the residence, but information circulating on other media suggested it was an accident.

"All hypotheses are being investigated," added

Beshara. "At the time of the event, three people were on the scene and these three people were met by the police."

According to TVA news, the child died after apparently strangling accidentally. The network claims that a member of the child's family found the boy in the basement of their home, while the father-in-law was outside next to a swimming pool.

Upon arrival, police tried to resuscitate the boy who was in cardio-pulmonary arrest, while waiting for paramedics to arrive. The boy was then taken by ambulance to hospital where death was confirmed. At least one of the parents was said to be in deep shock and an autopsy was scheduled.

## Laval police investigate after homebuyers lose millions from real estate developer bankruptcy

After speaking to some 20 families who lost millions in deposits when local real estate developer Bel-Habitat went bankrupt last week, Laval Mayor Marc Demers is promising support.

"Given the magnitude of the situation, we have asked the general management to look at the tools we have available to help you," he said at a July 6 city council meeting.

The Laval police department has opened an investigation and the mayor said "no effort will be spared" to shed light on this "unprecedented drama."

The company was incorporated in 2010 and its majority shareholder is its president Luc Perrier.

Among the 234 unsecured creditors are more than a hundred buyers whose down payments total \$18 million of the \$26 million swallowed up in this bankruptcy, said one of the victims, Henri Tang. "Life savings" went up in smoke on June 28 after Bel-Habitat's bankruptcy, he said.

"There are at least 66 families who put down more than \$100,000 in deposits," he said. Between them, they lost \$14.5 million, which corresponds to an average down payment of \$220,000. According to Tang, the developer-builder encouraged buyers to put down large down payments in return for discounts of 8, 10 and 15 per cent, depending on the size of the down payment.

Bel-Habitat was accredited to the mandatory warranty plan administered by the Residential Construction Guarantee (RCG), the regulation respecting the warranty plan for new residential buildings that limits the coverage on down payments to \$50,000. Tang is criticizing the fact that this information does not appear "anywhere in the preliminary contract of the RCG" that the builder makes buyers sign. The RCG is reminding consumers to not make a down payment exceeding \$50,000. The organization, designed to oversee protection for purchasers of new-construction homes, has met with 125 consumers, helping them open a file of complaint and answer their questions. Affected consumers who have questions or items to submit should contact RCG's customer service at 1 855-657-2333.

RCG has also set up a toll-free hotline for consumers who need psychological support. The number to call is 1-800-661-8193. "We will do our utmost to accompany and protect consumers affected by this unfortunate situation, in accordance with the criteria set out in the regulation. We intend to be in constant communication with them," said



One of the many home models promised to buyers.

Daniel Laplante, president and CEO of RCG, in a press release. "It is an extremely difficult context in which these people are and we could feel their sadness, even their distress."

This is the largest file handled since the creation of the Residential Construction Guarantee six years ago.

### CHASING THE WRONG PEOPLE

Twenty-seven days before Bel-Habitat declared bankruptcy, Tang denounced at a June 1 city council meeting the five years of delays to issue a municipal services connection permit to complete des Abeilles Street in Vimont, where his home was to be developed in 2018.

"It's taking longer than the Champlain Bridge, the Turcot Interchange and possibly longer than a global pandemic," he said. This housing development project was set to contain 24 houses and was swept away by bankruptcy.

"Is it normal that after five years, no one is able to give a firm date as to the end of this process," he said, adding that the first of four interventions during question periods at the municipal assembly was on May 7, 2019.

"I was already reassured that it was only a matter of months. But that was a speech from over two years ago. I have lost faith in the process. All I found was anxiety and misunderstanding. I hope to find a way to rebuild that trust."

Mayor Demers responded that the contractor did not "meet all the requirements for a permit" and that the contractor was well aware of the situation.

"I've been chasing the city for over two years," said Tang, noting that if he had known "Bel-Habitat was the problem, I would have taken my money out a long time ago. Imagine, I signed up in the summer of 2017!"

*This article was first published in French on July 9, 2021 by The Courier Laval and Local Journalism Initiative funded by Heritage Canada*



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# DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

## Turning Point

**Q** I am a 36-year-old woman. I purchased a home with my husband five years ago. Shortly after, things went downhill, just like my first marriage. He didn't pay attention to me, I was lonely, and I felt so unloved and unwanted.

My husband's son from a previous relationship was living with us at the time, and he had friends who would frequent our house. One in particular I became close to. Eventually we started spending a lot of time together.

I thought I was crazy because I felt more than I should have, seeing as he was only 16 at the time and I was 32. The age of consent here is 16.

We began to flirt, then the big thing happened. We started to be intimate. I fell for him and he fell for me, and we have been together since. Until recently that is. He started saying cruel things about our age difference.

He doesn't want to let go, and I definitely don't want to either. I hurt so bad inside because I really do love him. I have been separated from my husband on and off through the last four years. I don't believe I can save my marriage due to the strong feelings I have for this young man.

I need advice because all the people I know wouldn't know what advice to give. I am confused and feel so all alone.

**Debbie**

**A** Debbie, forty years ago V. C. Andrews published *Flowers in the Attic*, her first novel. Critics were not kind. One called the book "deranged swill."

Andrews specialized in tales of forbidden love, forbidden acts, and family secrets. Some of her characters were without conscience, without morals, and without character. Some of her stories leave you with a feeling of yuck. But the books were page-turners.

Your story has the potential to be a page-turner, too. It also has the potential to leave you with a feeling of yuck.

The plot of your life is simple. A lonely young woman seeks love. She marries twice, but neither marriage gives her what she wants. She wants to

be the center of a man's world. Perhaps she was so hungry for love she thought each day would be like the day she got engaged.

But new car smell doesn't last forever, especially with the wrong man.

Still craving to be loved, she starts looking at the boys who come into her home. Deep down, she knows that is just convenience.

But she goes forward with one of them. He goes forward too, not because he loves her but because he loves having sex with her. He is too immature to think beyond that.

Now, like a vintage V. C. Andrews novel, your plot is stretching toward the forbidden.

Debbie, perhaps the level of attention you need cannot be sustained by a man. But the bigger question is what are you doing to make yourself feel important, valuable, and useful?

The plot of your life has the potential to make you a villain. And while it is true that every good story needs a villain, there will be little comfort for you in becoming one.

Then again, maybe you are the victim in the story, because you were never schooled in the right routines of life. But being a victim will not give you comfort either.

We want you to be the heroine of your own story. However, every good story must have a turning point, where the heroine takes a stand and alters the course of her life. The turning point in your story entails divorce, separating from a young lover, and getting professional help.

There is a memorable story told about Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi was on a train at a station. As the train began to pull out, a reporter came to the window and asked Gandhi for a message he could give to his readers.

As the train moved slowly away, Gandhi wrote something on a piece of paper and handed it to the reporter. On the paper, Gandhi had written, "My life is my message."

What message do you want to send with your life?

**Wayne & Tamara**

# Sainte-Rose Art Symposium takes place from Thurs. July 22 to Sun. July 25

*Come experience all the charm and atmosphere  
in Vieux Sainte-Rose*



**The Saint-Rose Art Symposium is regarded by some as one of Canada's most successful gatherings of visual artists and their works**  
PHOTO: Martin C. Barry-Newsfirst/Archives

For four days this month, hundreds of appreciators of quality sculpture and art from all over eastern Canada will gather in Laval's picturesque Vieux Sainte Rose village for an annual event that many now accept as one of Quebec's most respected and esteemed outdoor art shows – the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium.

## Fifty artists in 2021

Fifty artists will be exhibiting their works at this year's symposium on Thursday July 22, Friday July 23, Saturday July 24 and Sunday July 25, organized as always by the members of the Corporation Rose-Art artists' collective.

Although more than 90 artists usually participate in the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium, the 2021 symposium is somewhat smaller, with 50 artists, due to relaxed but still ongoing sanitary restrictions mandated by the provincial government because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## A chance to see great art

The Saint-Rose Art Symposium is regarded by some as one of Canada's most successful gatherings of visual artists and their works. Each year, attending the symposium is seen

by connoisseurs of art as a great opportunity to enjoy the creations of many different artists who express themselves in many different styles.

For many patrons, the Saint-Rose Art Symposium has become an annual pilgrimage to an art show where they know quality art works can be purchased to enhance the home, or as lasting gifts for family and loved ones.

Admission to the symposium is free, and attending offers the additional opportunity of being able to explore and experience all the charm and historic atmosphere of Laval's Vieux Sainte Rose village, which was home at one time to world-renowned artists.

## Art in an historic setting

The hours during which the symposium will be open are Thursday July 22 and Friday July 23 from 1 pm to 8 pm, Saturday July 24 from 10 am to 8 pm, and Sunday July 25 from 10 am to 5 pm.

As is the case each year, your starting point can be at Corporation Rose-Art headquarters in the Vieille Caserne Art Gallery, 216 Boulevard Sainte-Rose, Laval, QC H7L 1L6, where Rose-Art volunteers will provide complete information.

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of *YOUR OTHER HALF* ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com)) • Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: [DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com](mailto:DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com)



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## How to describe your ideal boss in a job interview

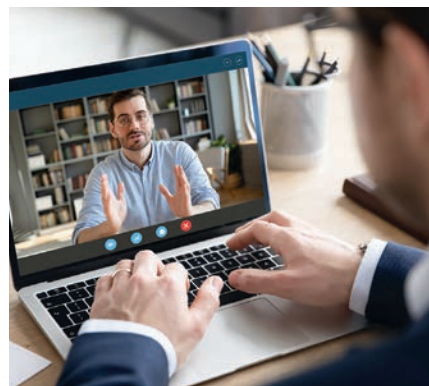
As part of the interview process, you might be asked to describe your ideal boss. While it's useful to know whether a prospective employer's management style suits your preferences, this can be a delicate question to answer. Among other things, you don't want to come across as being a needy employee or having problems with authority.

While it's important to give an honest answer, playing it safe by listing vague, positive attributes such as "fair" and "respectful" doesn't provide the recruiter with much information about who you are or what you expect from your employer. After all, who would want a disrespectful manager who doesn't treat employees fairly?

Therefore, it's best to provide a precise description that highlights both your ability to work independently and follow directions. Plus, by avoiding obvious answers, you'll show that you've taken some time to reflect on the subject. For example, you could mention that you value managers

who clearly communicate expectations but also encourage independent work.

Additionally, you can support your description with a few concrete examples from previous jobs to highlight your ability to adapt to various leadership styles. Just make sure to focus on what you look for in a boss rather than the qualities you dislike. Lastly, remember to never criticize a prior supervisor as this will likely reflect poorly on you.



## How to hire someone for a remote position

If you need to hire someone for a remote position, you should look for a candidate who can work effectively from home. Here's how to find the right person for the job.

### Seek out candidates with the right qualities

Telecommuting isn't for everyone, and some people aren't as productive when they work from home. To help narrow down your search for a remote employee, look for key qualities such as:

- Proactive communication skills. Since most exchanges with a remote employee happen over the phone and through email or instant messaging, you need someone who can clearly express their ideas. Consider having candidates take a writing test.
- Strong initiative. Remote employees must be able to complete their work without direct and constant supervision. You can reach out to former employers to learn more about a candidate's ability to work autonomously.
- Focus and organization skills. Someone who works from home needs to be adept at managing their time, establishing priorities and maintaining concentration despite distractions (especially if they have children at home).

### Ask questions to assess an applicant's suitability

Use the interview process to further evaluate whether a candidate is well-suited for a remote position. For example, you should ask:

- Do you have any experience working remotely?
- Are you comfortable using platforms such as Zoom and Skype?
- How do you remain focused when working from home?
- What strategies do you use to stay productive at home?

Finally, be sure to discuss your expectations about flexible work hours and confirm which time zone a prospective employee is based in.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of transfer of medical records

Notice is hereby given that the medical records of Dr. William Lau (75006), who practised primarily at 100-4415 Notre-Dame Boulevard, in Laval, will be transferred to the Collège des médecins du Québec on August 17, 2021. To obtain a copy of your medical file or for any other question, please contact the Collège at (514) 933-4441, ext. 5587, by email at [cessiondossiers@cmq.org](mailto:cessiondossiers@cmq.org) or at 1250 René-Lévesque Ouest, Bureau 3500, Montréal, Québec, H3B 0G2.

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# In Memoriam & Obituaries

## What to do if a loved one passes away abroad



Learning about the death of a loved one is never easy, especially if they passed away while abroad. Managing formalities in a country where the language, laws and customs differ from your own can make the grieving process that much more harrowing for family and friends involved. If a loved one has sadly passed away while abroad, continue reading to find out the right course of action.

### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The representative must quickly decide if the deceased's body will be repatriated (either in a coffin or urn) or buried in the country where the tragedy occurred. It's important to keep in mind that funeral practices and related costs (burial, cremation, etc.) vary greatly from one country to the next. In fact, certain regions in the world prohibit cremation while others impose strict time constraints for embalming or incinerating a corpse.

Furthermore, specific documents and certificates are necessary in many cases. Depending on the circumstances and place of death, long delays, among numerous other factors, can interrupt the body's repatriation. In addition, every airline has its own requirements and restrictions in relation to the transport of coffins or cremated remains.

Finally, all the costs related to the funeral arrangements and repatriation of the deceased's corpse or ashes are the family's responsibility. In the case where the deceased had travel insurance, the insurer may cover the entire or partial cost of related expenses.



**Brito, Antonio**  
1934 - 2021

In Laval, on Tuesday July 6, 2021 passed away, at the age of 87, ANTONIO BRITO, beloved husband of Maria Do Carmo Rodrigues. She is survived by her children Sylvia (Jose Valente), Irene and Philippe; his grandchildren Mikael, Angie and Klaudia; her sisters Herminia and Irene as well as many other relatives and friends.



**Jean, Ghislaine**  
1936 - 2021

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Ms. Ghislaine Jean, on May 28, 2021, at the age of 85. She is survived by her children Joanne (Christian), Daniel (Sandra), her grandchildren Daniel Jr., Philippe (Dayna) and Frédéric, her great-grandchildren Jaysen and Alexy, her sister-in-law Rita, her cousin Claire, her nephews and nieces, as well as several relatives and friends.



**Léger, Richard**  
1966 - 2021

In Laval, on July 6, 2021, at the age of 55, passed away Mr. Richard Léger, spouse of Ms. Manon Laplante. Besides his wife, he is survived by his children Stéphanie (Marc-Antoine) and Alexandre (Gabrielle), his brother Michel (Carole), his step-mother Claire, his sister-in-law Julie (Normand), his nephews and his niece. Francis (Mary-Lou), Valérie (Nicolas) and Samuel (Brittany), as well as several relatives and friends.



**Plouffe, Suzanne**  
1931 - 2021

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Suzanne Plouffe, wife of the late André Plouffe. Throughout her accomplished life, Suzanne will have touched the hearts of all those who came into contact with her. She is survived by her children Pierre (Nina Côté), Lucie (Pierre D. Tremblay), Yves (Carla Creveaux) and Isabelle; his grandchildren François, Simon, Gabrielle, Maxime, Philippe and Élise; his sister Lise (Sister Christine o.s.b.), his brother Bernard (Gisèle Lemay) as well as several nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

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# HOROSCOPE

Week of **JULY 18 TO 24, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**ARIES, AQUARIUS AND PISCES**



## ARIES

You could develop lucrative real estate goals. A few renovations will double the value of your home, or at least make you appreciate your space more. A friend or family member will suggest a spontaneous activity.



## TAURUS

The idea of a getaway will grow in your mind as the week progresses. You'll also be inspired by some type of pilgrimage. As you discover new ways of thin-kng, you'll be more open to the subject of spirituality.



## GEMINI

You'll have to deal with certain emotions for one reason or another. You'll be asked to show your generosity; just beware not to exceed your budget or your physical limits. Remember, stress and fatigue generally aren't a good mix.



## CANCER

Even if you aren't always a conciliatory person, you know how to keep the peace. As the saying goes, the ends justify the means. You'll have to choose between two propositions from people close to you.



## LEO

It's vacation time, but only once you've completed all your chores. At home, you'll be proud of housework you got done or renovation projects that are completed. A family member will need your help.



## VIRGO

Good self-esteem is essential to developing your personality. You'll be proud of an accomplishment that helps you go far. If you're single, your confidence will allow you to shine and get noticed by a future love interest.



## LIBRA

You don't have to go far for a relaxing vacation. At home, you'll have a great time in the company of your family. With enough organizing, you'll manage to re-connect with people you haven't seen in a long time.



## SCORPIO

You won't be able to sit still, and you'll have plenty to say. You'll spend hours making conversation with people from various cultures and getting to know them better. You'll have an insatiable thirst for knowledge.



## SAGITTARIUS

Despite delays and confusion, you'll make up for lost time. You'll take on a major project at home during your vacation. You'll also find the means to achieve your personal and professional goals.



## CAPRICORN

You need to get moving, broaden your contacts and maintain dynamic relationships with the people you care about. You'll have activities scheduled one after another, and your popularity will skyrocket. You'll be hard to keep up with.



## AQUARIUS

A health concern might slow you down, and you'll need to catch up on your sleep. At work, there'll be lots to do and many of your colleagues will be on vacation. Fortunately, you'll be generously rewarded for your extra effort.



## PISCES

You'll need to cleanse your social circles so that you can make your interactions more enjoyable. Afterward, you might plan a trip or quick getaway with loved ones that will create many unforgettable memories.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 1015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
	18	19			20	21				
22	23			24				28	29	30
31			32	33				34		
35			36			37	38			
41	42	43	44			45	46			
47				48	49			50	51	52
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

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## ACROSS

- Kettle and Bell
- Has
- Latest word
- Swiss mountain
- Brawl
- Forget
- As \_\_\_ your request
- Contribute a share
- Building's location
- Florida Key, e.g.
- Musical beat
- Goose's cry
- So-so grade
- Pertaining to the eye
- Bagel topper
- Function
- Itty-bitty
- Charm
- English beverage
- Cease
- Bled, as a color
- Pleasing
- Band's booking
- Rural hotels
- Sign

- Large vases
- Skin of an orange
- Ms. Winningham
- "\_\_\_ a Living"
- Besides
- Hem
- Floral necklace
- Narrow board
- Poverty
- Position

- Throw off
- "Gone \_\_\_ the Wind"
- Flower part
- lodge
- Spells
- Inventor Elias \_\_\_
- Unfold
- Held tightly
- Shipment
- Implements
- Perceived
- Gobbles
- Postal carriers
- Take the gold medal
- Luxurious resorts
- Holler
- Southwestern land formation
- Smudge
- Yearning
- Clarinet component
- Lemony refresher
- Casual shirt
- Tend a baby

## DOWN

- Plan out a route
- Pub offering
- Moved at full speed
- Exam type
- Chablis, e.g.
- Santana's "She's \_\_\_ There"
- Sound systems
- Curious

# Sudoku

## HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

PUZZLE NO. 801

	5		9					
	3	4			7	1	8	
7		1	8	4	6			
	2	5			4	3		7
		7					2	
						8	6	
		2		3				
		6	1	8	9			
	8	9				7	3	

## Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS

O	A	R	S		A	M	P		A	L	A	S		
G	R	I	T		L	I	E		B	O	L	O		
L	I	M	A		I	N	N		U	G	L	Y		
E	A	S	T		V	I	S	I	T					
				U	S	E		I	N	S	I	D	E	
A	S	S	E	T		J	O	T		R	A	W		
W	H	O			A	R	E	N	A		O	R	E	
L	A	D			Y	E	T		C	E	N	T	S	
S	H	A	P	E	D		S	T	Y					
					A	D	U	L	T		E	R	R	S
A	R	F	S		C	A	R		L	O	U	T		
S	U	E	S		E	R	A		I	D	L	E		
K	N	E	E		S	K	Y		D	E	E	P		

## Sudoku

8	5	6	1	7	9	3	2	4
4	1	3	2	5	6	9	7	8
7	2	9	3	8	4	6	5	1
9	8	4	6	3	7	2	1	5
6	7	1	9	2	5	8	4	3
5	3	2	4	1	8	7	9	6
3	6	7	5	4	2	1	8	9
1	4	8	7	9	3	5	6	2
2	9	5	8	6	1	4	3	7

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# SYMPOSIUM STE-ROSE

25<sup>th</sup> edition

# 2021 50 artists

showcased in Old Ste-Rose

July 22 to 25



**President of honor  
VIRGINIE DUFOUR**  
Councillor and Executive-  
Committee Member



**Diane Beaulieu**



**Gisèle Bédard**

Business Hours

Thurs. & Fri. : 1pm to 8pm  
Saturday : 10am to 8pm  
Sunday : 10am to 5pm

Free Activities on site :

Artists at work

Expositions:

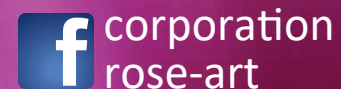
**Galerie La Vieille Caserne :** Rose Art artists

**Waiting rooms :** Public favorites exhibition

**Art Center / 2nd floor :** Exhibition of large format paintings by members of Rose-Art



**In front of the Galerie La Vieille Caserne**  
216 boul. Ste-Rose, Laval | 450 625-7925  
www.roseart.ca | roseart@videotron.ca



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